

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas

Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard

Saint Peter and Saint Paul 28th June 2020

The Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul is being celebrated today! These two great Apostles are foundational in the Church for many reasons: taking the Gospel to the people of Israel and to the Gentiles, for forming Christian communities, small and large, for writings which have been handed down to us and for a readiness to die for Jesus with martyrdom in the city of Rome.

This year as we reflect on, and honour, these Saints, I'd like to think about 'questions'. In our Gospel reading today from St. Matthew the disciples are asked 'Who do you say I am?' - and we hear Peter's wonderful response, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'. At the end of St. John's Gospel, Peter is asked by the Lord three times 'Do you love me?' This elicits Peter's answer 'Yes, Lord. You know I love you' and Peter is commissioned to take care of the lambs and sheep. In the Acts of the Apostles, a voice is heard: 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?....I am Jesus of Nazareth and you are persecuting me.' Saul's life and name are changed for ever as Paul bring the light of the Good News to peoples everywhere.

In this time of pandemic and lockdown, we have probably asking ourselves many questions! Why? How long? What if? There has been uncertainty with where we are going and what should be a next step. In your relationship with the Lord, what has he been asking you? Have you got to know him better? Have you realised fresh challenges to your way of living? Has faith been strengthened or watered down? Are you feeling lost? There are no straightforward answers. Peter was bold in calling Jesus 'The Christ' and then let the Lord down three times on the night before he died! Peter affirmed total love for Jesus and surely repented of his denials. He had to learn from his mistakes.

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Paul found himself in such a strange position after the amazing experience on the road to Damascus. The very people he was setting out to have put to death became his brothers and sisters; the message he detested in his former life is transformed into his inspiration and proclamation. God does work in mysterious ways. God has a plan for each one of us.

I write today's newsletter piece on Friday morning. We know that the possibility of public worship is coming about. What we don't know is how! The Cardinal and his Council are meeting at this moment and will talk with the Deans of the Diocese this afternoon. We await the new approaches and regulations. Once these have been published, Fr. Tony and I will consider how these can be implemented here in Welwyn Garden City with our three parishes. Please pray for us as we find a way forward. You are in our thoughts and prayers too. God bless you!

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

LIVESTREAMING

We are live-streaming using the YouTube channel:
[youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches-113038463699672/>

We have a Facebook page for our three parishes. Please search for 'Welwyn Garden City Catholic Churches' to find us. There are Gospel reflections, the latest news, live rosaries and so on. Do 'like' this page so that any updates appear in your own news feed, and share it with your friends too!

MASS ON RADIO

If you are aware of someone not on the internet who would like to follow Mass, RTE Radio broadcasts Mass on 252 Longwave. For those who have a digital radio, Radio Maria broadcasts in London on DAB+ and in the Cambridge area on DAB.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children's Liturgy Team at Our Lady's will have a session on Zoom for children this Sunday after the streamed Mass goes out. There will be a song with actions, Gospel reading and an activity. For more information, please contact Sarah (david.cafferty@ntlworld.com) or Eddy (eddyga@hotmail.com). Whichever parish you attend, why not give it a go?

OPENING OF CHURCHES In response to the permission for churches to open for private prayer, we taking things gently. Our churches will be open this week as follows:
St. Bonaventure: Tuesday 9.30 - 10.30am.
Holy Family Thursday 9.30 - 10.30am.
Our Lady's Friday 7 - 8pm

To meet the regulations, *there will only be quiet, private prayer* allowed. There will be stewards at the entrance of the church and at the exit which will be a different door so that movement is only in one direction. Hands will be sanitised on entry and departure. A further steward will be in the church to give support. We have created distancing by blocking off and bunching up benches. This inevitably has reduced the number of places available. In **St. Bonaventure's only 8 individuals, couples or families** can be in at once, in **Holy Family this will be 17** and in **Our Lady's 20**. If the church is full, then people will have to wait outside. After the particular hour of prayer the benches will be sanitised and the church prepared for the following week. There will NOT be the opportunity for Confession in the church. Remember the toilets are not available.

Our aim is to make sure that at all times people are safe, distanced and able with confidence to pray. If you are unwell, a vulnerable person, shielding, or at risk because of your age, it is worth considering whether it would be the right thing to come to church. If you are willing to be a steward, please give your name to Fr. Norbert and a rota will be formed according to the number of volunteers.

Streamed Masses will definitely continue.

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. On Sundays the Mass is offered for the 'People of our Parishes'. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let Fr. Norbert know. Donations for the Masses can be made at a later stage.

This week Masses have been celebrated for Fabio Cicala RIP 1st Anniv, Gerry Doyle RIP Wedding Anniv, Julian Twaites (sick), Joseph Pais RIP, Michael McCabe RIP, Maureen Bell RIP 5th Anniv, Mary Davin RIP, Alan Livett RIP, Trudy King RIP, Paul Chappell RIP Anniv, Maggie Peacey RIP, John and Lizzie McGeehan RIP

PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Trudy King RIP

Mary Wall RIP (Mary Brannan's mother)

Joseph Pais RIP

As well as praying for the repose of the souls of all who have died, let us remember the many bereaved families at this sad time of pandemic.

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, FIRST COMMUNIONS are now on hold until the situation changes.

Please keep in your prayers adults and children who were due to be baptised at Easter as well as the babies whose Baptisms have been postponed, the young people who were meant to be confirmed and the children who would have made their First Holy Communion in our three churches. There are couples whose Weddings have had to be rescheduled for later in the year or next year. May God watch over them all and their loved ones.

Wedding Services without music or hymns are going to be allowed, with limited numbers present.

Funeral Services with very limited numbers will soon be permitted in church. There will still be the possibility graveside or crematorium services.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES Some parishioners contribute regularly through standing orders; for this we are grateful. A number of parishioners have asked about their planned giving envelopes and weekly collection contributions. We have set up for each of our parishes Virgin Money Giving pages which allow you to make a donation which can also be GiftAided. This can also be done on your mobile phone. The links are on the parish website. We wish to thank those of you who will be able to offer support in this way. We are also acutely aware of the financial hardship which the present circumstances of pandemic have created for so many and respect totally the fact that some of you are now unable to make contributions. God bless you all.

HELP DURING TIME OF CORONAVIRUS We now have a team of people who are happy to do shopping, collect prescriptions, chat on the phone, etc. If you need any such help, please do contact Fr Tony, and he will put you in contact with someone who can assist you. Fr Tony can be reached on 01707 327434, or at tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Unfortunately with our churches now closed, we cannot collect items each week. If you are able to drop off non-perishable food for the needy members of our community, New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday. The address is 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. If anyone would like to make a financial contribution to the Food Bank, please email foodbank@newzioncf.net and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S STONE CROSS Back in January the Health and Safety review of our churches revealed that the stone cross at the top of St. Bonaventure's has moved and the recommendation was for it to be stabilised and strengthened. The work is being carried out.

NEW PARISH CENTRE The builders have been able to continue with the work these last few months and our new Parish Centre is taking shape inside with the underfloor heating in place, the walls plastered and the grounds being landscaped. It looks splendid and should be completed by the end of July.

SPECIAL MASSES will be livestreamed from Cathedrals in this country every Thursday evening at 7 o'clock for the intentions of frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families. This week from Southwark Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson.

www.clicktopray.org is a free app which links you with thousands of people on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and is co-ordinated by the Jesuits. Each day there are phrases or inspirational thoughts to accompany you in your prayer.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK BEGINNING 28TH JUNE

Why not take out your Bible and reflect on these passages? Or do a Google search!

Saturday 27th June St. John Southworth (1592 - 1654) *Priest and Martyr. His body lies in Westminster Cathedral*

Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19 'Pour your heart out like water before the Lord'

Matthew 8:5-17 The faith of the centurion

Sunday 28th June ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

Acts 12:1-11 Peter is rescued

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 'I have fought the good fight...; I have run the race; I have kept the faith..'

Matthew 16:13-19 'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.'

Monday 29th June

Amos 2:6-10 The unjust acts of the people

Matthew 8:18-22 What following Jesus entails

Tuesday 30th June

Amos 3:1-8, 4:11-12 'Listen!'

Matthew 8:23-27 Calming of storm at sea

Wednesday 1st July DEDICATION OF CATHEDRAL *Westminster Cathedral was dedicated in 1910. It is called the Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.*

Choice of readings e.g.

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 The water flowing from the Temple brings life

Luke 19:1-10 Today salvation has come to this house

Thursday 2nd July

Amos 7:10-17 'The Lord took me...and said... Go!'

Matthew 9:1-8 Healing of the paralytic

Friday 3rd July ST. THOMAS *Apostle*

Ephesians 2:19-22 'You are being built into a house where God lives'

John 20:24-29 Doubting Thomas makes a great profession of faith!